

of the annexation process and the proposal.

During this initial discussion, City staff will assist the applicant in determining the prospects for City and LAFCO approval of the annexation and review the annexation application processing fees. Each annexation proposal can be



unique, and there are a number of factors that can effect the prospects for gaining approval. Generally, the annexation proposal will be reviewed for compliance with the following:

1. The property must be located within the City's Sphere of Influence and be contiguous to the existing City limits;
2. A majority of the property owners (with a majority of the assessed land value) in the proposal area must consent, in writing, to the annexation.
3. Urban services must be adjacent to the property or there must be a commitment, as demonstrated in the service plan for the property, to make such urban services available to the property within three years; and
4. The proposal encourages orderly urban expansion, is needed to meet growth needs of the community, and does not create isolated City service areas or county islands.

Once a property owner has expressed interest in annexation, City staff may survey adjacent property owners in the general area to

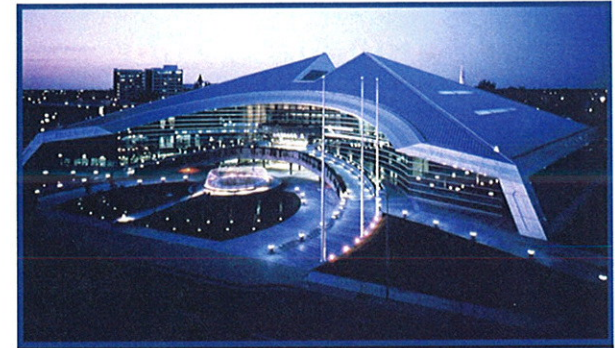
determine if there is broad interest in annexing a larger area. The City initiates contact through a letter explaining the benefits derived from annexation to Fresno.

If necessary, a meeting may be scheduled between the property owners and City staff to allow for questions and answers about the proposal and the annexation process in general. Public hearings to make decisions about annexations are held by the Local Agency Formation Commission. Notices for these public hearings are the responsibility of LAFCO. LAFCO may be contacted at 2115 Kern Street, Suite 310, Fresno, CA 93721, (559) 495-0604.

Fresno, a culture of excellence where people get the best everyday.

For More Information, Please Contact Us:

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GUIDE TO THE ANNEXATION PROCESS

**City of Fresno
Planning and Development
Department
2600 Fresno Street
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The City of Fresno Welcomes New Citizens

Becoming a resident of the City of Fresno offers citizens a number of advantages. Annexation to the City of Fresno provides an opportunity to share existing, efficient public services as well as allowing for a more extensive involvement in City and community affairs.

A major advantage of living in Fresno is the service and protection offered by the municipal police and fire departments. The Fresno Police Department provides fast and courteous service responses to citizens in need of police services. In addition, the Police Department offers diligent law enforcement and greater patrol presence. A strong Neighborhood Watch program and special services to youth in the community are also offered by the Police Department. The Fresno Fire Department provides quick responses to citizens in need of fire protection or emergency medical care. Regular service by the Fresno Fire Department will include the advantage of better fire service during summer months when traditionally, county district protection is reduced in urban areas when units patrol for fires in wildland



areas. In addition to education programs offered in public schools, the Fire Department also periodically offers Fresno citizens CPR training programs when a group of citizens request it.

New City residents can immediately receive other City services such as Fresno Area Express (FAX), the City's public transportation



system offering 17 fixed-route bus lines serving the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan area. Also available is Handy Ride, a service designed to meet the transportation needs of eligible persons with disabilities who cannot functionally use the FAX City bus system. Also available upon annexation is routine solid waste collection, street sweeping, recycling, green waste pickup, and an annual clean up program.

Annexation allows residents of the City of Fresno to enjoy not only the above services, but also the real involvement in the working of the City. Citizens are encouraged to attend the regular City Council and Planning Commission meeting held at the City Hall. These meetings are designed to allow every citizen in the community the opportunity to be involved in important issues and a chance to be heard.

An Overview of the Annexation Process

The City of Fresno considers annexation to the City beneficial both to prospective residents

of Fresno and to the City. Annexations are however, subject to legal procedures and policy guidelines established to ensure orderly City growth and the efficient provision of service to new City residents and to remaining County residents.

Proposals for reorganization are subject to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, and to review by the Fresno County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). A LAFCO has been established in each county of California to serve as an impartial body responsible for overseeing the formation and boundary changes of cities and special districts. LAFCO is required by state law to review and make determination of approval or denial of all annexations or other changes of organization to cities and special districts.

The act of reorganization transfers political jurisdiction for an area from one local government agency to another. Reorganizations are characterized as either uninhabited (less than 12 registered voters) or inhabited (12 or more registered voters). An annexation to a city that includes detachment from special districts located in the county is called a "reorganization". Since annexations to the City of Fresno typically involve detachment of the area to be annexed from the Fresno County Fire Protection District (or the North Central Fire District) and the Kings River Conservation District and therefore LAFCO refers to this type of annexation as a reorganization.

How Property is Annexed

Property owners interested in having their property annexed to Fresno should direct any questions to Bruce Barnes, Project Manager at (559) 621-8047. City staff will discuss the details